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REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN IRAN

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED

LD141146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] According to news agency reports, Jimmy Carter took part in a press conference and radio and television interview after 11 weeks [as heard] in the White House. He made certain remarks regarding the Afghanistan crisis and Iran-U.S. relations. He announced at this press conference that he would give limited support to a UN plan to convene an international commission to hear Iran's complaints and investigate Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's crimes. Carter said that there are positive indications in sight for the release of 50 American hostages and that the hostages will be delivered to the United States, not to a third party or an international organization. Carter declined to provide details concerning a plan prepared by Bani-Sadr, Iran's president, because of the delicate nature of the negotiations to end the 102-day hostage-taking crisis. According to AFP, during his recent press conference Carter referred to the Afghanistan crisis and said we must convince the Soviet Union by peaceful means that it cannot attack another country with impunity. It must therefore suffer the consequences of its actions. Carter also expressed the hope of seeing a peace force established in Afghanistan, supported by the UN and composed of Muslim and non-Muslim troops.

Referring to the Iranian-U.S. crisis in connection with the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran being taken hostage, he reiterated his commitment to remain in the White House so long as the U.S. Hostages in Tehran are detained. Meanwhile, REUTER and UPI report that negotiations through diplomatic channels for the release of the hostages have recently entered a delicate stage. At the same time, NBC television network reported that the United States and Iran have reached agreement on a formula for the release of the hostages which was prepared by Kurt Waldheim and Iranian officials.

STUDENTS: BANI-SADR HAS NO JURISDICTION OVER HOSTAGE ISSUE

NC141622 Paris AFP in English 1617 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Tehran, Feb.--Iranian students holding 50 Americans hostage here at the American embassy said today they still insist on the return of the shah to Iran, despite reports of a possible compromise solution.

"We refuse any negotiation with the Americans because that can only be a compromise," said the students in a (?statement.) According to Nobel Peace Prize-winner Sean MacBride, the United States and Iran have agreed on a plan to free the hostages by establishing a commission to investigate the shah's alleged crimes and with the commission's membership already approved by the Iranians.

The students also claimed that the hostage issue was not under the jurisdiction of Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, who has indicated that the release of the hostages is no longer necessarily linked to the return of the shah to Iran.

Bani-Sadr on Hostage Issue

LD141151 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 10 Feb 80 pp 33-34 LD

[Giancesare Flesca 31 January interview in Tehran with Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr: "Leave the Hostages to Me!"]

[Excerpts] Tehran--"I am now in a position to resolve the [hostages] problem," the new president said, when he received me 31 January, while still confined to bed by a bad bout on influenza. "The people's vote is clear: They are opposed to the duplication of decisionmaking centers and want a strong central government.

Once the institutional process is complete, when the Parliament has been elected in 5 weeks' time and I have appointed a government, we will enter a new phase. No revolutionary councils, no permament assemblies, no irresponsible' bodies. Instead of staying in the embassy the students will have to return to the university and work hard for the success of the revolution. Otherwise in 6 months' time there will be nothing left of this country."

Is it true, I asked, as NEWSWEEK maintains, that you are Washington's favorite? This description made the new president smile. "No," he replied, "I was not Washington's favorite, but Admiral Madani. The Washington leaders are very well aware that I will continue my war on the system of domination based on the dollar and on Iran's dependence on them. As finance minister I reduced the national deficit from $15 billion to zero. And the lifespan of our oil deposits has been extended from 20 to 50 years, thanks to the chosen policy of containment. I really do not believe I am Carter's favorite."

[Question] This does not alter the fact, however, that the U.S. administration has started a policy of proffering the outstretched hand to you. Is this a coincidence? A trick? A deception?

[Answer] No, it is the shook wave from Afghanistan. Since the Russian invasion the Americans are very much afraid of "losing" Iran as well. Therefore they have to prepare their public for any kind of concession to us. So, having portrayed Khomeyni and myself as devils, they are now showing sympathy. We shall see. Meanwhile the shah is still in Panama....

[Question] What if that government returned him to you?

[Answer] If that government returned him to us we would try him, as is right and essential to our national dignity. He would be tried by a normal court, without any spirit of revenge and with all the guarantees. After sentence has been passed, perhaps the imam and the people might even pardon him and save his life. Of course, this would not be easy: 60,000 families of martyrs would oppose it, as would hundreds of thousands of cripples and former prisoners. What I mean is that the attack on the U.S. Embassy had several motives. That gesture has to an extent canceled out years of affronts to and mortification of our national pride; and the Americans must be made to understand that they can no longer conduct themselves in Iran as they did during the shah's time. I do not know whether their government has realized this, but if they show that they have thoroughly learned this lesson, the hostages issue--which is a secondary issue--should be resolved easily. I am in a position to guarantee this.

Beheshti Press Conference

JN142005 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Ayatollah Dr Beheshti, member of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Council, has held a press conference in which he answered questions put to him by Iranian and foreign correspondents on various issues.

Replying to a question on the hostages and President Bani-Sadr's opinion on this issue, Dr Beheshti said: Our discussions are not yet over. The opinions of the council members are not the same on this matter. At any rate, the people's opinion must be taken into consideration. We must also discuss this issue with the imam.

Dr Beheshti explained that it is not easy to give an opinion on this matter. Bani-Sadr was only expressing his personal opinion on this matter, he said.

Replying to another question, Ayatollah Beheshti said: The country's policy is determined by the people only, not by foreign forces. He added: The new Iranian Government knows well that it can derive strength by depending on the people only, not on the East or West.

Dr Beheshti was asked: It was said that Bani-Sadr announced last week that he intends to suggest to the imam and the Revolution Council that the hostages be handed to the government. Has such a suggestion been made to the Revolution Council and what is your opinion on that? Dr Beheshti said: This suggestion has not yet been made to the Revolution Council. We must find a solution to this problem acceptable to all or the majority of the people, including our beloved and devout students in the den of U.S. espionage.

Dr Beheshti added: Any decision that does not take all this into consideration will fail.

Regarding the threats of the two superpowers. Dr Beheshti said: Actually, both superpowers are dangerous. But our contemporary history will make the Iranian people feel particularly sensitive toward the United States. I do not see any reason why the Iranian people should fear the superpowers as long as they preserve their unity and solidarity and continue to show loyalty to their leadership.

Regarding the postponement of the Islamic Consultative Assembly elections for 1 week, Dr Beheshti affirmed: This is in the interest of all factions and groups. Of course, it is more beneficial to the Islamic revolution conference than others. We want to demonstrate our good intentions and cooperation in this regard. We will continue our march in accordance with the will of the people and under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

Asked about the international committee of jurors and the investigation committee which will investigate the crimes of the deposed shah and whether, as it was said, the committee of jurors will operate in conjunction with the investigation committee, Dr Beheshti said: This matter has not yet been raised. However, it may be raised in the future.

Dr Beheshti was asked: Do you think the hostages issue will be resolved before the formation of the Islamic Consultative Assembly? Dr Beheshti replied: This is possible. Neither the first nor the second question is a problem for Iran. At any rate, we want this issue to be decided once and for all, because we do not want to have any political problem in Iran. But this issue has not been of any importance to the government or the Iranian political leadership. There are other important problems.

INA on Diplomatic Efforts

JN151043 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 15 February--The Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH states today that Iranian-French-U.S. negotiations on the fate of the U.S. hostages in Tehran have been conducted secretly for 8 days.

The paper points out that the Iranian side to the negotiations has completely dropped the issue of demanding the shah's extradition and the return of his money, adding that the Iranian side is satisfied with the U.S. guarantee affirming Iran's right to follow-up the issue in U.S. courts.

The paper adds that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State George Saunders represented his country in the negotiations, while Iran was represented by its ambassador in Paris and France by two French employees, who had previously offered facilities to Khomeyni during his stay in France.

U.S. Delegation's Statement

LD141840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] In our report citing PARS NEWS AGENCY concerning the press conference by members of the special delegation of representatives of the U.S. nation, which was broadcast last night, a number of mistakes were made in the translation of statements at the conference, which resulted in certain misunderstandings of the delegation's stance.

PARS NEWS AGENCY has expressed its regret and has since reported a statement issued by Prof Norman Ford, the delegation spokesman clearing any ambiguity regarding the aim of the delegation in travelling to Iran. The statement read as follows:

Concerning the activities of the special delegation of the U.S. nation in Iran, serious misunderstandings have occured in some of the mass media. We did not have any form of discussion with the Muslim students regarding the release of the hostages. Even though we regard the issue as Americans, we did however, evaluate the case of the 102-day hostage-taking of the 50 Americans in Iran against the 25-year bondage of 36 million Iranians by the U.S. Government.

Our aim in coming to Iran is based on eagerness for discussions to obtain closer ties between the Iranian and the American nations.

[Signed] The special delegation representing the U.S. nation.

Delegation Visit to Prison

LD141937 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Texr] Members of the special mission of representatives of the U.S. people, who are in Iran at the invitation of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, visited Evin prison this morning. During this visit a number of agents of the former regime used to rule and, among other things, described the situation in the prisons under the regime of the traitorous shah and the manner in which strugglers were arrested and tortured. Also, the present conditions in the prison and the way in which prisoners are treated were described for the benefit of the U.S. guests.

Foreign Ministry on Superpowers

LD141709 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Feb 80 p 13 LD

[Unattributed report: "Foreign Ministry's Strongly Worded Attack on Superpowers' Military Presence in Gulf"]

[Text] In a published statement the Foreign Ministry has strongly condemned the military presence of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf region.

Condemning once again the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the foreign minister also makes the following points in its statement for the purpose of enlightening public opinion as to the maneuvers of American imperialism:

1. The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly objects to and condemns the military presence in its southern waters [as published] of superpowers from outside the region, whether they be those of America, the Soviet Union or any other power.

2. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that America's long-term aim in massing its forces is to establish a permanent presence in this region and that it is exploiting international crises in order to disguise actions which further this policy. To demonstrate this the attention of the public is drawn to the following points:

A. The idea of creating strike forces capable of wide deployment and quick reaction was reviewed at various political and military levels in America following the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Revolution, and the American and world press discussed the decision to create a 110,000-man force to be specifically employed in the oil-producing regions during the months preceding the U.S. Tehran Embassy events.

B. The United States, which has maintained a naval unit in the Persian Gulf by using bases in Bahrain, decided last June to strengthen this unit and to build up its presence in the Indian Ocean.

3. The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers that the presence of American naval units, and the corresponding buildup of Soviet naval units in the area, constitute a serious threat to peace and international security, and declares this to be in violation of repeated resolutions by the UN General Assembly relevant to the creation of a peace zone in the Indian Ocean.

4. The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran deems it necessary to draw the attention of the nonalined states--particularly the Islamic states of the region who protested strongly at the Islamic conference in Islamabad against American economic and military threats against Iran and other Islamic states--to a situation which has arisen as the result of the superpowers' measures and of their policy of repression, coercion and intimidation in this region, and thus jeopardizing peace and world security.

STATEMENT BY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ON MINACHI

LD141150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Statement issued by the Public Relations Office of the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Iranian Islamic Revolution--read by announcer]

[Text] In His exalted name. In reply to repeated questions asked by brothers and sisters regarding Mr Naser Minachi, this is to inform you that, as has been said through the mass media, until the student followers of the imam's policy make available the original documents linking Minachi with CIA, no action can be taken. The matter will be immediately considered whenever the documents are presented to the prosecutor's office.

[Signed] Public Relations Office of the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Iranian Islamic Republic.

AFP: KHOMEYNI TO LEAVE HOSPITAL WITHIN 10 DAYS

NC141559 Paris AFP in English 1555 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14 (AFP)--Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, 79, is in satisfactory health and will leave the Mehdi Reza'i hospital here within the next 10 days, Dr. [name indistinct], one of his doctors, told AFP today.

As expected, the Iranian leader will not return immediately to Qom, the holy city 160 kms south of here where he usually resides. He will live in the capital for about two months near the hospital where he has been treated for heart trouble, the (?doctor) added.

BANI-SADR DECRIES MULTIPLICITY OF DECISION CENTERS

LD142136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today came over to the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran where, in an interview by way of satellite, he replied to questions put to him by Rome radio and TV correspondents.

In reply to a question on whether Iran's current attitude toward the United States was not contrary to the Vienna agreements the president said: The onslaught was not initiated by us. It was initiated by the U.S. Government by means of the 1953 coup d'etat during Mossadeq's time.

Mr Bani-Sadr added: Our men and women were then dragged into torture chambers. Therefore, when the people staged a revolution against such a course of events, how could one tell them to remain at home, to not move and to not take up a position? The president said: The Americans should leave us alone and then they will see how the people, whether they be Muslims, Christians or Jews, could live together with understanding.

Our country's president was asked about the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy. He said: Some of these students' actions are correct but some of the others, which are connected with the government and are part and parcel of the government's business, are open to criticism.

Mr Bani-Sadr added: So long as there are a multiplicity of decisionmaking centers, the country will not be able to emerge from the crisis.

Pertaining to oil and its production, Dr Bani-Sadr said: We are now about to reduce oil production; the figure is 40 percent of the level of production carried out during the era of the traitorous Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

He added: We cannot rely on agriculture alone but should develop our industries.

In reply to another question pertaining to the Palestinian people and their struggles, Dr Bani-Sadr, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: We deem the Palestinian people's struggle for their homeland a just struggle.

Pertaining to the independent policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president said: We should have an independent policy, an independent economy and an independent army.

Mr Bani-Sadr added: We have never said that we wish to impose ourselves on other countries but a revolution is a revolution and it will change.

In conclusion, Mr Bani-Sadr once again emphasized: We believe in independence and no one should impose himself on and bully us, just as we should not impose ourselves on anybody and bully him.

BANI-SADR THANKS HONECKER FOR CONGRATULATIONS

AU141041 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 13 Feb 80 p 1 AU

[Text] Berlin (ADN)--The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, thanked GDR council state chairman Erich Honecker for his congratulations on the occasion of his election as Iran's president in a cable which reads as follows:

I wish to sincerely thank you for your friendly congratulatory message of the occasion of my election as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for progress and prosperity to the people of the GDR.

QOTBZADEH DISCUSSES HOSTAGES, OTHER ISSUES

AT141330 Athens NEWS in English 14 Feb 80 pp 1, 4 AT

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh said Wednesday his government's original demand for the return of the deposed shah in exchange for the release of the American hostages held in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran remains unchanged.

"Our demands are legitimate and right and the shah must be extradited," Qotbzadeh said.

He claimed that Iran's newly elected President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has denied that he said the question of the hostages' release is no longer related to shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi's extradition to Iran.

However, there was no indication Bani-Sadr had repudiated statements made Tuesday in Tehran that Iran no longer demands the shah's return as the price for freeing the 50 Americans now held hostage in the embassy by militant students for over 100 days.

Qotbzadeh said that statements attributed to him that force might be used on the student militants if they did not free the hostages following government orders, was a "reporter's trick."

"There is no need for such circumstance," Qotbzadeh said. "I cannot imagine such a situation will arise. The imam (Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni) must be obeyed" if he says the hostages should be set free.

Asked at a news conference what he believed is a realistic period of time for a solution to be found to the hostage problem, Qotbzadeh replied: "Confusion exists within the United States created by contradictory reports. To resolve the crisis you must get to the root of the problem which means an international investigatory commission as proposed by U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim must be formed. There is no timetable for releasing the hostages. There is no timetable for the work of the international commission."

Qotbzadeh, in Athens on a private two-day visit at the invitation of a left-wing Greek group, chastized the "superpowers" for their show of force in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf and attempts to bring independent line countries under their sphere of influence.

He said that his trip to Athens, Rome and Paris is not a new opening to the West. "We never closed the doors. We want to assert total independence as our own foreign policy."

Qotbzadeh paid a courtesy call on Greek foreign minister Yeoryios Rallis to discuss "mutual problems" and the latest developments in Iran.

Informed Greek sources said Rallis brought up the question of what the new Iranian Government intends to do to meet its financial commitments to Greek construction companies who were forced to leave the country when the shah's government was ousted.

Greek companies were building giant housing projects reportedly worth close to four billion dollars.

He was addressing a rally later in the evening.

Further Qotbzadeh Comments in Greece

AT141332 Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek 14 Feb 80 p 3 AT

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Qotbzadeh yesterday supported views on the hostage issue which are different than those expressed by Iranian President Bani-Sadr. He said the hostages will be set free only when the international commission to be set up to investigate the shah's crimes reaches its conclusions.

At 0930 yesterday Qotbzadeh conferred for half an hour with Foreign Minister Rallis, who stated after the meeting, "we exchanged views on bilateral issues and Qotbzadeh briefed me on the situation in his country." Referring to the meeting, Qotbzadeh said, "I had an extremely interesting and friendly discussion with Rallis and am happy to have met the Greek foreign minister."

At a press conference held later, Qotbzadeh said his visit to Italy and France is an overture to Western Europe and is being made so that a dialog may begin to explore possibilities of cooperation with these countries.

Answering a question on the Cyprus issue, he said that a dialog must continue, but he avoided any condemnation of the Turkish invasion of the island.

At other points of the press conference he attacked, with equal severity, both superpowers, and he condemned both the U.S. presence in the Indian Ocean and the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. He then said the Islamic Revolution is the third power in the world and that it is not based exclusively on materialism, but also upon the spiritual powers of man.

Last night, Qotbzadeh addressed a gathering at the "sporting" stadium and he is due to depart for Italy today.

More on Qotbzadeh Greece Visit

AT141420 Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek 14 Feb 80 pp 3, 11 AT

[Excerpts] Cyprus and the Middle East

On Cyprus Qotbzadeh argued, "there are certain real problems at the level of the Cyprus people but the most serious thing is that these are being exploited by the great powers." The only way to solve the Cyprus issue, he said, as well as other problems related to it is that the countries of the area and their progressive forces must reach mutual understanding and they must proceed to dialog avoiding any involvement in "the game of the superpowers."

Answering a question on the presence of Turkish forces in Cyprus the Iranian minister said that dialog (between Greece and Turkey, as he let it be understood) "must start from the positive and not the negative aspects of the problem," that it must start from "positive points such as common cultural background and common interests of the two peoples."

Basically his position on the Palestine issue was similar. He described the issue as "a creation of international Zionism in cooperation with the great powers." He stated the Iranian Government will support the struggle of the Palestine people and he advised the Arab countries "to learn to rely more upon their people instead of relying on one superpower in order to deal with the others."

Internal Situation

Referring to the internal Iranian situation he stated:

"Our course is a third option. It is neither the socialist solution which swept the factor 'man' aside, nor is it the capitalist solution which is only interested in materialistic enjoyment. We find the essence of Islam in both the social and spiritual liberation of man."

"The communists are free to have their organizations, their newspapers and their offices, they are free to meet, to act and to express themselves. They will continue to be free under the prerequisite that they will remain Iranians, that they will defend the interests of Iran and not those of another country and that they will respect the constitution and its provisions."

"An involvement of the superpowers was attempted in the question of our brother Kurds. Today we are at a stage of negotiations and we can, with faith, reach a lasting solution."

Speaking at the "sporting" stadium at a meeting organized by "an initiative group" for solidarity with the Iranian Revolution, Qotbzadeh expounded a series of views on the goals of the Iranian revolution. These views clash with historic developments and, on, many points, even with the positions of the Ayatollah Khomeyni and other leaders of the revolution. They are, primarily, contrary to the very interests of the revolution itself.

The Iranian minister alleged that the Soviet Union supported the shah's regime like the United States and Great Britain did and added the Iranians are fighting "so that our fates are not controlled by Washington or Moscow or Beijing or by anyone else.

Under this light Qotbzadeh overthrew certain of the arguments used by Western propaganda in its effort to slander the Iranian Revolution such as the argument about excessive devotion to religion, fanaticism and so forth. In conclusion he "encouraged" the peoples to unite "against imperialism whether it comes from the East or from the West."

Qotbzadeh Arrival Statement in Rome

AU141540 Rome ANSA in English 1533 GMT 14 Feb 80 AU

[Text] Rome, February 12 (ANSA)--An international commission to probe charges against the deposed shah's reign in Iran could be set up in a week, according to Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh.

The Iranian diplomatic chief arrived here today, from Athens on a one-day official visit to Rome, he flies on to Paris tomorrow.

Qotbzadeh said in an arrival statement that a settlement for the release of American hostages held in the custody of Islamic students at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran since November 4 had to be worked out "step by step".

"There are still doubts and hopes," he said noncommitedly, adding "I have hopes".

Qotbzadeh Interview

ID141958 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 1800 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Qotbzadeh is in Italy on a private visit. He arrived from Greece. This morning he held a meeting with Foreign Minister Ruffini at the Foreign Ministry. Here is a report by Pietro Buttitta:

The visit by Iranian Foreign Minister Qotbzadeh to Italy, which was apparently impromptu, has been characterized by an almost 2-hour long meeting this morning at the Foreign Ministry with Foreign Minister Ruffini. It marked a very important moment in the political life of the new Iran and its relations with our country. The foreign ministers of the two countries reviewed international problems and the state of relations between Iran and Italy. While Ruffini expressed the hope that the Iranian Republic would become a stabilizing factor in the complex Middle East situation, Qotbzadeh concentrated his discourse on three points: Appreciation for the confidence of Italian enterpreneurs, technicians and workers in Iran toward the Iranian Revolution; deep appreciation for the contribution made by the Italian community--the largest among foreigners in Iran--toward the economic and social development of the country; and, finally, illustrating Iran's willingness to further intensify the relations with our country at all levels.

Here is a brief report on what Qotbzadeh told GR-1 (radio news one] during a press conference which he held in Rome this afternoon. We asked the Iranian foreign minister why he had chosen Italy, and then France, to begin a series of official visits as a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [Begin Qotbzadeh recording in Persian, fading into Italian translation]

The Italians have shown a certain loyalty to the Iranian Revolution, while with France we have profound links in the cultural field. We therefore consider these two countries to be among those offering the possibility of opening new prospects for cooperation in the future. It is now up to the French and Italian Governments to decide on starting closer cooperation between us and on respecting the independence of our country and our capacity to make decisions. I am optimistic and I believe therefore that the situation will develop in a positive manner.

During my meeting with Minister Ruffini, we reviewed the already existing situation between our two countries, especially in the economic field, and we noted the deep desire on both sides to open up new prospects for even closer cooperation between our two countries in the future. On this point we found ourselves in complete agreement. Our talks were frank and I believe that they were, to a certain degree, successful. [end recording]

On the question of the American hostages held in Tehran, the Iranian foreign minister expressed his conviction that the solution of this problem was rapidly approaching, especially because the United States was now making moves which, in his opinion, should have been made 2 months ago, that is, recognizing the justice of Iran's positions as regards the crimes committed by the shah's regime.

AFP Report

NC141930 Paris AFP in English 1926 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Rome, Feb. 14 (AFP)--Release of the American hostages in Tehran is "very much in sight" and could be a "question of hours as much as a question of months," Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Quotbzadeh said here today.

Mr. Quotbzadeh's statement, made at a news conference here echoed optimism expressed in Tehran and Washington for an end sometime soon to the hostage crisis that is now in its 103rd day. He declined to comment on what arrangements still had to be made and what timetable was envisaged for the release of the estimated 50 hostages held by pro-Khomeyni militants who stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on November 4.

Mr. Qotbzadeh said the return of the shah to face Islamic justice, the original demand of the militants who took over the embassy, would happen "not be force but by the determination of the Iranian people. This they have already shown one time with the downfall of the shah. Why not a second time?"

The foreign minister said he would pursue the extradition of Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, which Iran has already requested of Panama.

(But Mr. Qotbzadeh told France-Inter Radio that he was skeptical of the chances of freeing the hostages before the Iranian legislative elections scheduled for March 14.)

The minister, who will fly from Rome to Paris, denied that during his absence from Tehran Iranian authorities were taking a more flexible approach to their dispute with the United States.

"It defined an independent policy supported by Imam Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and the Revolutionary Council," he said.

"My absence changes absolutely nothing. It will be thus as long as the Revolutionary Council exists."

Qotbzadeh Talks With Italy's Ruffini

AU142034 Rome ANSA in English 1900 GMT 14 Feb 80 AU

[Text] Rome, February 14 (ANSA)--Visting Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh today had a friendly conversation with his Italian counterpart, Attilio Ruffini, at the Foreign Ministry building here.

The Iranian diplomatic chief arrived here this morning from Athens for a one-day visit to Rome and will travel on to Paris tomorrow.

During their encounter today Ruffini voiced Italy's deep (?respect) for the (?Iranian people's) [word indistinct] for a society (?closer) to its religious values [words indistinct]. He also (?asked) the Iranian Government to review the problem of the American hostages being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Ruffini stressed that this was a violation of fundamental norms of international law.

For his part, Qotbzadeh recalled an Iranian proposal for the hostages' release, but also voiced the hope that the matter would be resolved shortly.

Qotbzadeh then voiced the appreciations of his government for the contribution made by Italian technicians to Iran's economic development and said that Tehran was ready to further strengthen Italo-Iranian cooperation in this sector.

The two men also reviewed economic matters of direct interest to the two countries and exchanged points of view on current international tensions.

In a press conference this evening Qotbzadeh said that he had come to Rome to explain Iran's point of view as to cooperation projects between the two countries. Everything that Italian companies have built in Iran will be paid for, he said. Projects still to be carried out will be rediscussed, he said.

"The Italians have shown loyalty to the Iranian Revolution in that they have not abandoned our country, but remain there in large numbers," he said.

The Iranian minister said that he and Ruffini spoke of problems to be solved to achieve closer cooperation. The conversation was frank and to this extent was a success, Qotbzadeh added. He did not rule out the possibility of meeting with Vatican officials prior to his departure tomorrow for Paris.

With regard to the hostage problems, he said that first of all, a commission to probe into the Shah's crimes must be formed. He thought this could take place within a few days. This could unblock the situation, he said.

Qotbzadeh wound up the press conference stating that he was in full agreement with Iran's President Bani-Sadr and that Ayatollah Khomeyni was in excellent condition at the moment. However, life is in the hands of Allah, he added.

The visiting foreign minister was asked what he thought about the possibility of a Soviet intervention in Iran similar to that in Afghanistan.

Qotbzadeh felt such a move very unlikely.

"We were the first to condemn (the Soviet intervention) on principle," he said. "For the same (?reason) we were against the American presence in Vietnam,", he said. "Should anyone, the Soviet Union or the United States, decide on a military intervention against Iran, we would not only fight on the borders, but in our streets, in our homes, and the Iranian people are well [word indistinct]", he said.

He was asked if he thought the shah could be brought back to Iran by force.

"Not with force", he said, "but with determination." It was Iran's determination that toppled the shah's regime, he noted. Why should not this determination work a second time, he asked.

SITUATION IN GONBAD-E KAVUS DESCRIBED AS 'CALM'

LD131820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] In a telephone conversation with PARS NEWS AGENCY, Rafi'ipur, the deputy governor general of Mazandaran, today described the situation in Gonbad-e Kavus as calm. He said: Steps are being taken to arrest the culprits in the recent clashes. Documents have been discovered in the recaptured positions and are being studied.

He added: Dear Turkoman compatriots, you should know that our aim is to identify and arrest the conspirators and to restore peace and order in the region. As has been repeatedly announced, there is no difference between Turks, Kurds, Farsis, Baluchis, Turkomans and other tribes.

The deputy governor general of Mazandaran continued: We are determined, with the help of God, to uproot the infected tumor of incitement, chaos and fighting against the revolutionary government in the region. Our Farsi and Turkoman brothers are respected by us.

Concerning the resignation of Mr Same'i, the governor of Gonbad, which had been reported by the mass media, he said: Same'i tendered his resignation on 8 February, but his resignation was not accepted so he is still serving as the governor of Gonbad.

The deputy governor general of Mazandaran also said: Mr Derazgisu, the governor of Gorgan took over the governorship of Gonbad for a short period because of conditions in the region.

Revolution Guards Statement

LD131822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Statement issued by the central staff of the Corps of Islamic Revolution Guards pertaining to incidents in Gonbad-e Kavus--read by announcer]

[Text] "Verily by God they are victorious." [Quotation from Koran] Beware, as the followers of the party of God are victorious and triumphant. Zealous, struggling Muslim nation of Iran: The corps of the Islamic Revolution Guards, continuing their mopping up operations in Gonbad-e Kavus against plotting agents, have occupied the counter-revolutionary barricades with help from the army of the Islamic Republic. At present the city has been cleared of all rioting, counterrevolutionary elements and has been completly brought under the control of the Corps of the Islamic Revolution Guards. Suspect elements are being prevented from infiltrating Gonbad-e Kavus.

The Corps of the Islamic Revolution Guards expresses gratitude for the cooperation of the struggling Muslim people of Gonbad-e Kavus in their struggle against counterrevolution and in pacifying the situation in the city.

Khalkhali Visit to Gonbad

LD140756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali, the religious judge, who has gone to Gonbad-e Kavus, today in a telephone contact with the correspondent of PARS NEWS AGENCY in Gorgan said: I have not come to Gonbad to deal harshly [with the people]. I have come here to investigate the conditions of the oppressed and deprived people and to create greater facilities for them. Khalkhali said: On the other hand, after necessary investigations, I will clarify the situation regarding the property [short break in transmission] of the feudal lords and will also deal with the usurers in the region.

More on Gonbad Situation

LD151132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The governor of Gorgan told the PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent today: The situation in the city of Gonbad-e Kavus is calm, traffic continues in the city and a number of stores in certain parts of the city are open to provide the needs of the public at large. Also work has started on clearing barricades and sandbags in the city.

The governor of Gorgan, who returned from Gonbad-e Kavus to Gorgan today, called on all tradesmen, artisans and other groups of Gonbad-e Kavus citizens to return to their daily business and place of employment with the return of calm to Gonbad and carry out their usual work, maintaining their usual unity, brotherhood and equality.

In conclusion, the governor of Gorgan announced: The control of the city of Gonbad-e Kavus is at present in the hands of the Corps of Guards and Army of the Islamic Republic.

HEAVY RAINS REPORTED IN AHVAZ 11 FEBRUARY

LD111516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] The march of the gendarmerie, army division and Guards Corps was not staged today in Ahvaz. The correspondent of PARS NEWS AGENCY reported at 1030 this morning that the 92d Armored Division of Khuzestan issued an announcement declaring that because the heavy rains, which were still falling at 1030, had resulted in flooding in various areas and villages in the vicinity of Ahvaz, the personnel of this division were prepared to provide assistance to the victims of the flood. According to our latest reports there have been heavy rains in Khuzestan Province since last night, and consequently most of the streets of the city of Ahvaz are covered with water. Some of the villages are threatened with floods, especially the village of Kutf'abdollah. Because of the heavy rain fall, two [words indistinct] (?mobile units of) of the Voice and Profile of Iran in Ahvaz have been set up under the supervision of Mr Mohammad Gharavi, the governor general of Khuzestan. Continuous information is being broadcast by Radio Ahvaz.

The correspondent of the PARS NEWS AGENCY also reports that because of the heavy rains which were still falling at the time the news was dispatched--that is to say at 1230--in addition to the personnel of the division who are at the ready, the Guards Corps, too, have issued an order placing themselves on alert.

Deaths in Khuzestan Floods

LD121912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Our reporter stationed in the relief headquarters of the Ahvaz Red Lion and Sun Society reported at 1730 today, that part of the bank of the Gatvand Dam has been washed away and as a result the connecting road between the Gatvand District and Shushtar, which connects 20 villages, is cut off and there is no possibility of supplying the foodstuffs and fuel which are needed in this region.

According to the same report, the long bridge between Gatvand and Shushtar has also fallen down. Another report indicates that one person was buried under the rubble and died last night in Gatvand. At present many houses have collapsed and the fields are under water.

Latest reports indicate that, at present, the roads from 'Arab-hasan to Shushtar, Shushtar to Masjed Soleyman, and Meydavud to Ramhormoz are open.

The representative of the Oppressed Foundation in Hamadiyeh told our reporter in Agha Jari this afternoon that in the Ramshir district of Khalafabad about 15 villages are fully surrounded by water. He added: At present, two medical teams are providing assistance.

The governor general of Khuzestan informed our reporter last night that by that time nine people had lost their lives, two of whom lived in Ahvaz, two in Masjed Soleyman and five in Khalafabad or Ramhormoz. Three deaths have been reported in Agha Jari.

The supervisor of the Islamic Voice and Profile of Iran, Khuzestan Center, has issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is brought to the attention of the zealous and revolutionary people of Khuzestan that as the area around the Voice and Profile Center of Abadan is under water, there is no telephone contact between this center and other parts of the province is impossible. Therefore people are requested to listen to Ahvaz Radio for current flood news [words indistinct], so that, by being aware of what is happening, they will provide no opportunity to opportunist elements to receive cash or noncash donations. Only pay attention to the statements issued by the responsible authorities over Ahvaz Radio.

Flood Relief Measures

LD131150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, the floods in Khuzestan Province continue to take their toll in casualties and damage.

People's assistance and that of revolutionary and executive organs continues with intensity, but such assistance is not as effective as it should be because of a lack of adequate helicopters and of access to some of the villages, which are numerous.

A PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent reported at 0830 today from the Khuzestan relief operations headquarters that the waters of the Karun River have risen to such an extent that boulevards in Ahvaz are under water.

A report from Chadegan says that last night water washed out many of the villages in this region as well.

In Shushtar, 25 villages are cut off including those of Arabhasan, Aqili, Kuchvand and Shoybeh. The evidence is that there are probably heavy casulaties. One of the members of the Revolution Guards Corps has described the situation in Shushtar as extremely serious andthe relief measures for the area as insignificant.

According to a report by the Shushtar police, which has also been confirmed by the Khuzestan relief operations headquarters, up to 0030 this morning 29 bodies had been recovered from flood waters around Shushtar. These bodies were recovered before the Pol Dam in Shushtar was broken. The casualty figure is expected to be higher than this. Once hovercraft and helicopters reach the area, an accurate number of casualties will be established.

Message From Khuzestan Governor

GF131627 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 13 Feb 80 GF

[Message from Engineer Sayed Mohammed Qarazi, governor of Khuzestan; date not given--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To all brothers and sisters and administering authorities of the different organs of the country: The major current flood has covered all villages along the rivers of Khuzestan.

It is so great that today when I flew by helicopter to see Khalifabad and Hindijan from the air I saw nothing but water covering most of the villages. People were resorting to every means to survive. Surrounded by water, sisters and brothers with their children were seeking shelter, climbing onto tractors and praying to God to save them. Only advanced equipment like hovercraft and helicopters can save these poor people.

People have tried and worked very hard. Provincial organizations are struggling. The above-mentioned subject was discussed with authorities who have been unsuccessful in using all the aircraft available throughout the country and in using them on a wide scale because we do not manufacture them.

We humbly accept the fact that we have not done enough. We ask the air force and navy, which shoulder the biggest responsibility in this matter, to play a greater role. We also ask the flood victims to forgive us because we could not do enough for them and be aware of this big responsibility which was given to us.

Sayed Mohammad Qarazi [end recording]

More on Khuzestan Floods

LD132358 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] According to a PARS dispatch, the governor general of Khuzestan said that as of 2130 tonight 36 persons had been killed in the Khuzestan floods. He added: Of course, this is not an accurate figure. There are more casualties than this and with the subsiding of the water and access to all the villages a more accurate figure will be possible. The Khuzestan governor general called on the people of Ahvaz to maintain their calm and full preparedness and to remain awake until morning while listening for radio announcements.

Aid to Khuzestan

LD132304 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Aid to the damaged areas of Khuzestan continues, the governor of Khorramshahr announced in an interview with the voice of the Islamic republic of Iran in Ahvaz this afternoon: The force of the water in (Jarahi) River, situated in (Shadgem) district, caused a crack in the (Obudi) Dam, seriously threatening (Shadgan) District.

Further Reportage

LD132307 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] In order to send relief to the flood victims in Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad Province, a relief committee headquarters has been established in the governorate general of that province, in Yasuj.

According to our correspondent in Yasuj, all the roads connecting the villages in Kohkiluyeh and Deh Dasht have been closed due to the flood and the villages' livestock is in danger of starvation due to lack of fodder.

Report on Gatvand Dam

LD140550 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Khuzestan Water and Power Department, referring to a report concerning a breach in the Gatvand dam, has announced that this dam is made of reinforced concrete and has arched gates and has not been damaged as the result of the flood. Only the gravel section on the eastern part of the dam has been washed away by the flood, and water is flowing from there towards the Karun River.

Revolution Council on Floods

LD142236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] At the conclusion of tonight's session of the Revolution Council which was held with the participation of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, Dr Hasan Habibi, the spokesman for the Revolution Council told reporters about the decisions of the session:

In tonight's session a report was given on the Khuzestan situation. Since the extent of the damage in that region is high, more notice should be taken of this point, especially when providing tents and basic requirements.

Dr Habibi added: The president and the Revolution Council invited all the nations of the world to help Iran in this relief work, particularly by sending tents and basic requirements. If necessary, we will even purchase them; but what we want is for all the world to take this matter seriously and send help as soon as possible.

The Revolution Council spokesman said: All the districts and villages around Ahvaz, and Ahvaz itself, have suffered heavy losses; of course, the exact number of deaths and the exact extent of the damages is not known yet; the water level must subside before the loss of life and property can be determined. Attempts have been made in that respect and they should be intensified.

Finally, Dr Habibi said: In tonight's session, numerous points were raised and the internal management of the Revolution Council was also discussed, which should have more order. [as heard]

AHVAZ REVOLUTION COURT ORDERS TWO EXECUTIONS

LD130904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] According to the central news bureau report from Ahvaz, the Islamic Revolution Court of Ahvaz met on 11 and 12 February in order to investigate accusations concerning two corrupt elements of the former regime. After trial and deliberation the following verdicts were issued:

Malek Mansur Bashti Shirazi, the son of Asadollah, the famous feudalist and the tribal chief of the Basht region in Kohkiluyeh, who ruled in this region for many years in a tyrannical way and who freely carried out any kind of oppression against the defenseless people, was found guilty of several cases of deliberate murder--based on complaints and witnesses of a number of inhabitants of the region--plundering the wealth and property of people and exploitation of the oppressed, cooperating with and supporting the corrupt Pahlavi regime, contact with foreign elements, including the American consul in Khorramshahr and making a present of a carpet to him, membership in the Lions Club, armed resistance to the guards at the time of arrest, which led to the death of one of the guards, the creation of terror and suppression in the region by making use of his power and influence.

He was declared by the court to be one of the clear cases of those guilty of sowing corruption in the earth and warring against God and was sentenced to death and the confiscation of his property.

Parviz Kazemiyan, director of the defunct SAVAK in Susangerd in Dasht-e Azadegan _ [presumably the former Dasht-e Moghan] was found guilty of issuing the order and taking part in the arrest and physical and psychological torture of many of the believing and freedom-loving inhabitants of Susangerd. Some of those arrested and tortured were sentenced to death in the military courts of the former regime. [He was also guilty of] excessive cooperation and self-sacrifice in the path of strengthening and consolidating the hated Pahlavi regime and the creation of an atmosphere of fear and terror in the region. Bearing in mind the complaints and the witnesses of the inhabitants of the region and the documents existing in the defunct SAVAK, the court declared him guilty of sowing corruption on the earth and warring against God and sentenced him to death.

According to the same report, the verdicts of the court were carried out.

FLOODING IN BUSHEHR PROVINCE REPORTED

ID141220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] The inhabitants of six villages in the Province of Bushehr are surrounded by floods. A PARS NEWS AGENCY reporter, quoting a member of the Bushehr Reconstruction Crusade, said this morning that the river and six villages became surrounded by water. Ahman Modaresizadeh, governor general of Bushehr, visited the area by helicopter. So far there are no reports of casualties in the region.

UNREST IN KAMYARAN AIMED AT HINDERING SPECIAL MISSION

ID141925 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] According to PARS NEWS AGENCY, the members of the investigation committee of the special Kordestan mission were present at their headquarters at the governorate general of Kordestan from this morning and resumed their investigations.

Meanwhile, the following statement was issued today by the public relations office of the Revolution Guards Corps in the western part of the country, in connection with the recent events in the district of Kamyaran:

In His exalted name. From 2300 through 0400 on 12 February the city of Kamyaran was subjected to periodic attacks by assailants who disturbed the peace and security of the Muslim inhabitants of Kamyaran, as during previous nights.

The assailants caused another clash, lasting 3 hours, in the northern part of Kamyaran at noon on 13 February; consequently, traffic came to a standstill for several hours.

The aim of the assailants perpetrating the inhuman acts was connected with the presence of the investigation committee assigned to the region in order to study the recent events, so that the culprits involved would not be identified. It is clear to the honorable and aware nation that the enemy has always been afraid of the truth and is in fear of its true identity being discovered. Little does it realize that the odious faces of these venal individuals can no longer be concealed behind any mask or guise.

More on Clashes

JN141822 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Tehran, 14 February--During the past 48 hours the Kurdish town of Kamyaran witnessed fierce clashes between government troops and Kurdish citizens in which artillery and machineguns were used.

Reporting this, the evening paper ETTELA'AT says the clashes resulted in several deaths, injuries and the demolition of some houses.

The paper also reports that groups of citizens took to the mountains or sought refuge in mosques.

Kordestan Leader on Possible Solutions

LD121023 Tehran AZADEGAN in Persian 6 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "Discussion With DPK Leader Karim Hesami"]

[Excerpt] Speaking on the telephone from Urumiyeh with a PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Karim Hesami, a leader of the Kordestan Democratic Party [KDP], said yesterday afternoon: "We are ready to give any assistance and to cooperate with a view to a peaceful solution to the Kordestan issue."

Mr Hesami was asked: "Some foreign newsmen have sent dispatches reporting that the Kordestan issue is apparently to be resolved through the intermediary of Dr Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic state of Iran."

In reply he said: "I have not heard this directly, but in his interview [not further identified] Dr Bani-Sadr appeared favorably disposed toward Kordestan, the term 'autonomy,' national rights and the Kurdish people, and we hope that, through the endeavors of the new president, the Kordestan problem will be solved peacefully. As for ourselves, we are ready to give whatever help is needed in this regard, and we will help."

Hesami was asked: "Having regard to the recent clashes, does the present situation in Kordestan permit a peaceful solution?"

In reply he said: "Notwithstanding all the clashes that have occurred--and there were incidents at Paveh last night--it is calm today, and it is our view that, however soon the Kordestan issue is resolved, it cannot be soon enough."

Qassemlu Interview

LD140901 Paris L'UNITE in French 7-13 Feb 80 pp 6-8 LD

[Jean-Loup Reverier interview with Democratic Party of Kordestan leader Abdol Rahman Qassemlu: "Kordestan's Autonomy As Seen by Its Leader"--date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] How has the situation developed in Kordestan since the revolution?

Qassemlu: We participated with the people of Iran in all the battles and demonstrations which took place during the revolution. The Kurdish people expected three essential aims to be realized after the victory. Our struggle had firstly an anti-imperialist nature. It was particularly directed against American influence in the political, economic and military spheres.

Next, it aimed at setting up a democratic regime in Iran where liberties would be respected, especially for all the organizations and popular parties without forgetting, of course, freedom of belief and press freedom. Finally, we wanted to insure our national rights, namely, autonomy within the framework of the Iranian state.

Unfortunately, we soon realized after the revolution that it would not be easy to attain these aims. From the outset a religious group--which no doubt took part in the revolution without being the only such one--began to monopolize political life and to limit the activities of the other parties. Gradually the warning signs of a religious dictatorship appeared.

However, Kordestan remained an exception. This religious group's influence here remained virtually nil except in the south of our region at Kermanshah. Here we had a sort of democracy which made Kordestan a kind of barricade against the erosion of liberties operating everywhere else.

Of course, this does not please the reactionaries, be they former servants of the shah who have changed sides or even religious fanatics who only accept their own ideology however outmoded it may have become in several spheres as a result of the country's political, economic and social development.

All these groups saw Kordestan as a threat to their power. For this reason plots against us multiplied in the months after the revolution. There were clashes at Sanandaj in March (more than 200 casualties on either side), at Naqadeh in April (about 500 casualties), then at Marivan (few casualties) and finally at Reza'iyeh and at Urumieh (a few dozen casualties), the war erupted at Paveh in August and affected our people throughout Kordestan. We did everything to prevent it. As we still do today. But the plotters within the central administration at Qom and Tehran stopped our attempts.

[Question] Your rapid withdrawal to the Kurdish mountains in August, marked by the abandonment of the cities, has often been shown as a sign of weakness.

[Answer] In fact this has been misunderstood from the start. Some people, including generally well-informed European journalists, even spoke of a global defeat. But within a month we reorganized our military forces and took the offensive. From October I was in Mahabad again. Gradually we regained control of all our cities. As you could tell, with the exception of the garrisons, Kordestan's roads and cities are now controlled by our own forces--the Peshmergas. Certainly one finds Pasdars in some cities. Nevertheless, the military situation has totally changed. This is equally true of the political situation. This must be stressed because in August a veritable jihad or holy war was launched against us. Since then the overwhelming majority of Iranian public opinion has well understood that the Kurdish people was struggling for their legitimate rights and that all accusations against our people and party--they accused us of being Zionists, separatists, traitors, supported by imperialism, by communism--were false. It has now reached the point where it has become harder to launch a holy war against us. In our statement immediately after the hostilities, we reminded people that, in a fratricidal war there was neither victor nor vanquished. But this was a military and political victory for our people anyway.

[Question] What is the situation in Kordestan at the present?

[Answer] It is quite strange. On the one hand there is peace. With bogus negotiations. On the other hand, these "negotiations" are marking time. We have made no progress.

[Question] What is your relationship with the army?

[Answer] We established during the war that several times the army hesitated to fight us. So it was normal that we, in return, would try to avoid confrontation whenever possible.

[Question] But have you had contact with the officers?

[Answer] In fact the officers contacted us. Several times.

[Question] To inform you that they did not want to fight the Kurds?

[Answer] Not just that but I can tell you now that our relations with the army and the officers are generally good. We have a mutual desire to avoid fighting. I believe this is in the interest of both parties.

[Question] Do you believe that, given the relations you claim to have established with the army, the latter would disobey the government if it wanted to use the army against you again?

[Answer] I cannot predict...say exactly what is going to happen. Anyway, it will be different because of what has happened already. This time the army would for sure oppose us even less. We do not wish a new war which would not be in the interests of the revolution or of Khomeyni's leadership. But if it is forced on us again I believe that a part of the army will not only try not to fight us but that many officers and soldiers will be on our side. I shall not hide the fact from you that a new war could bring the regime down. We, as Kurds and as the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPRK], do not want this. As we have told government representatives and Ayatollah Khomeyni's son-in-law, we feel there is no alternative in the present conditions. Those who might replace Khomeyni's regime would be no better for the Kurds, the continuation of the revolution or for democracy. In our opinion, only one force could succeed Khomeyni: the army, supported by the Americans. This encourages us to do everything to avoid war and safeguard the present regime.

[Question] Do you really believe that there is still a genuine army in Iran?

[Answer] I do not know what you mean by a genuine army? Undoubtedly the army, which was an army of mercenaries under the shah, has changed a lot. There are many groups in it now, ranging from nationalist officers to progressive democrats, and including those who remain loyal to the shah's regime. Without wishing for his return, the last mentioned would like a similar regime.

Because of this political diversity one cannot talk of a united, well disciplined army. A few severe blows could lead to its disintegration.

[Question] Does the ending of American technical assistance not limit the army's capacity to intervene?

[Answer] The equipment exists. Of course, according to our information, a good half of the planes, helicopters and armored divisions are not functioning properly. There is a shortage of spares everywhere. But the other half is good enough to fight for a good while. In fact the army's present weakness stems from the officers' state of mind, their morale. They dislike what is happening now. From their point of view that is understandable. They were trained generally in the West (in the United States, France and so forth), under a regime which granted them many privileges. They do not like the religious mentality. They find restrictions, on music and alcohol for example, burdening. They were used to a way of life denied them by the present regime.

Politically, certain officers lean toward a liberal, democratic regime. The nationalists, for their part, find it hard to bear that people no longer talk of Iran's grandeur, or of its past and that, on the contrary, the 2,500 years of the Persian empire are officially condemned. They do not understand talk of Islamic solidarity which goes beyond the framework of national frontiers. All these reasons put a great many officers against the regime.

[Question] You did not take part in the 25 January election through lack of a candidate to meet your hopes. In these conditions do you consider Bani-Sadr as your president?

[Answer] Of course. We must accept the country's majority vote, even if Mr Bani-Sadr has sometimes spoken against us, implicating me personally. In politics one must not dream. One must be a realist. This is also true for Mr Bani-Sadr who must take into account the country's real situation and the correlation of forces. If he wants to be president of every Iranian he must seek a solution to the Kurdish problem. We, for our part, are ready to talk. If those in power demonstrate good will, as we have done, we will be able to reach a peaceful solution.

[Question] Would you be prepared to abandon certain of your claims?

[Answer] In politics one must always compromise. But we have some essential claims which make up our minimum program. We are ready to discuss our 26-point claims. We ask for a parliament for Kordestan. They reject this and prefer to speak of a council. Perhaps we can accept this....

[Question] You do not believe in the sacredness of words.

[Answer] No. Except in one single word, "autonomy." We reject the word "self-government," artificially devised by Daryush Foruhar. They point out to us that the important thing is the content. Agreed, but if they accept this content, why not the form, the word? Briefly, this is what we want. First, the right to autonomy and that it be written into the constitution. Second, the unification of the Kurdish lands in Iran within one single province, instead of the four at present. We are ready to discuss whether this or that city should or should not be part of the autonomous region. Certain cities perhaps have a Turkish majority. Let us say that this unification should take place by taking into account geographic, historic, economic and ethnic elements and above all the will of the population...

[Question] By referendum?

[Answer] Why? This is not necessary. If there are different points of view the problems can be left open for the moment.

A third point: Except for the army, foreign relations, long-term planning and the monetary system, all other questions should be the province of the autonomous organs. Fourth, we want an autonomous Kordestan, unified within the framework of the Iranian state, to elect a parliament--one could say a council--which would appoint a government (or even an executive committee) charged with total management of internal affairs. Internal security is the fifth point. It must be taken over by the Kurds themselves. We do not want pasdars here or police sent from Tehran. Our Peshmergas can insure security. Sixth and finally, Kurdish must be recognized in the administration and at school as our region's official language, it being understood that Persian remains the language of all Iran. Teaching, during the first 4 years, must be entirely in Kurdish.

[Question] What problems has the composition of the Kurdish delegation posed in what you call the bogus negotiations?

[Answer] The only time we negotiated, Shaykh Ezzedin Hoseyni introduced our delegation members and at the same time named the organization which they represented. Mr Sabarian protested at the time on the pretext that, as government representatives, they could not have discussions with the Feda'i (Marxist-Leninists) and the Komeleh (Maoists). Because, he said, these two groups did not recognize the Islamic Republic. So Mr Foruhar requested an interlude which is still going on. I believe that this was in reality only a pretext. The real cause is that the two plans for Kordestan, the government's and ours, are quite far apart. I could establish that none of the delegation ministers had understood the real significance of the nation question.

[Question] Apart from being the only part truly representative of Kordestan what distinguishes you from the Feda'i and the Komeleh?

[Answer] These two claim to be Marxist-Leninists while we are a democratic, progressive party without claim to be "the party of the working class." I do not believe that a party should be dominated by a single ideology. Almost the entire DPK membership consists of peasants (80 percent) and working people. The overwhelming majority of our members are religious believers but we also have some Marxists.

[Question] Do you define yourselves as Marxists?

[Answer] (laughter). In general I do not answer personal questions.

[Question] What relations are you putting up with the other ethnic minorities in Iran?

[Answer] A council of solidarity has been set up in Tehran. It regularly publishes a bulletin. This very day we sent a message from the Kurdish delegation to the Turkmen congress which has just opened. We have contacts, therefore. Unfortunately, the political struggle has made less progress in the country's other parties than within Kordestan. The ideal would be to set up a federal state. Do not forget that the majority of the Iranian population is made up of non-Persians. We spoke of this to the government delegation. But they replied that a federal system would be difficult and, moreover, is a Western one. Then we proposed using the expression "unified republics of Iran." But in vain up to now.

SHAH SUPPORTERS ATTACK QASR-E SHIRIN AREA

JN111920 Tehran Domestic Service in Kurdish (Surani) 1800 GMT 11 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Our correspondent in Kermanshah has reported that well over 1,000 supporters of the former regime attacked the buildings of (Pilco) and (Kurbano) in the Qasr-e Shirin area. The attack lasted until 2004 last night. Colonel (Akhiani), commander of the Kermanshah gendarmerie, said that the police forces intercepted the attackers.

(Akhiani) added that the attackers attacked the same area today using various weapons, including RPG-7's. The police forces managed to repulse the attackers.

PARS reports that at midnight last night, a clash took place 45 km inside Iraqi territory, near Qalat Dizah. The agency adds that the security forces and other forces in the area have been alerted against any attack on Qasr-e Shirin.

QOM REVOLUTION GUARDS PROTEST COURT VERDICT

LD142131 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Qom's Islamic Revolution Court has delivered a verdict on Hajj 'Abdallah Samadi, who is accused of murdering the person guarding the home of His Great Eminence Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari, ordering him to pay 1 million rials as blood money to the dead man's relatives and sanctioning his release from prison.

At the same time the Corps of the Islamic Revolution Guards in Qom issued a statement protesting against the verdict of the Islamic Revolution Court in Qom.

CHAMRAN SEES GREATEST THREAT IN INTERNAL STRIFE

LD141155 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Feb 80 pp 3, 14 LD

[KEYHAN political service report: "Defense Minister Dr Chamran: 'Iranian Military Equipment Worth $60 Billion Left With No Spare Parts'"]

[Excerpts] Following the threats from American imperialism, the movement of that country's warships towards the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman and the stationing of paratroops and commandos from this world-devourer in certain Persian Gulf states and in Turkey, we held a discussion with Defense Minister Mostafa Chamran, which now follows.

In the interview, conducted by KEYHAN's political service, Dr Chamran discussed the list of officers expelled, purges in the army, the Kordestan issue, issues relating to responsibility in the organization of the campaign against foreign agents, the resolution of such matters as a [possible] coup d'etat by the army, meetings with Barzani, the role of the defense minister and the president in relation to the army and many other issues.

We asked the defense minister: At present, American imperialism--or as the imam calls it, the great Satan--is resorting to new threats every day. What are you doing about these threats, bearing in mind the shortage of spare parts?

Chamran takes a particular view of this. He believes that Iran is threatened by America in three ways. And the military threat may be a threefold one. He says:

We have begun our biggest struggle against America, which is seeking by three methods to conspire to overthrow the Islamic Revolution. The primary threat from America is military, whereby it is preparing its navy in the Gulf of Oman, the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean and its commandos in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Turkey for a military attack on Iran. But we believe that America will be defeated in this military attack, since psychologically the nation of Iran is united and can engage in a holy struggle; and, as the imam has said, a 20-million-strong army will come into being. It is certain that if American commandos land in Iran it will not be the army, but the people who will tear them to pieces tooth and nail. This a fact which America knows and understands well.

The least damage that would be inflicted in such an attack would be the bombing of the oil-producing areas of Abadan. The airports, or possibly the city of Qom and other regions.

But no government stands to gain from bombing.

It might well inflict damage, financial loss and loss of life, but America will have gained nothing so long as it does not land its infantry or seize territory [sentence as published]. Now that America has understood that a direct attack on Iran is not feasible it is contemplating other conspiracies. For example there may be an attack by the Iraqi Army on Khuzestan.

As you know, a large number of people have been concerned with the problem of an Iraqi incursion into Khuzestan on the pretext of supporting Khuzestan or protecting the oil from imperialism and then taking it over. But this plan has also failed because the Iraqi Government knew that even if Iran's army collapsed and they entered Iranian territory, the same 20 million selfless Iranians would tear them to pieces.

Now the Iraqi Government knows well that if the Iranian Army were to enter Iraq the oppressed nation of Iraq would welcome the Iranian forces and this would end in the overthrow of the Iraqi regime.

Third Threat From America

There is a third, military course of action, too, which is an attack by Israel. We see Israel repeating several times that it is ready for any kind of operation in Iran. But in the final analysis Israel has shown awareness of the fact that the entry of their commandos into Iran would mean the death of them all.

Thus we see that there is no longer the danger of an American military attack on Iran, and this is why the imam says that, for all its astonishing strength America is incapable of doing anything.

Leaving aside a military attack by America, the second type of threat from America is that of economic sanctions, an example of which is an economic blockade. As you know, almost all the Iranian Army uses American-produced equipment, and all the aircraft and helicopters and most of our military equipment, comes from the West.

Now most of the spare parts are no longer functioning, and a great investment by this nation, estimated at $60 billion at least, cannot easily be written off. We are therefore experiencing some difficulty as regards spares and, in addition, food and agricultural sanctions of a sort are already in force against Iran, which is putting pressure on our nation.

But to return to the question of spares, we are trying to manufacture some locally, and we are sure that with a carefully planned program we will be able to obtain a large quantity of these requirements from within the country. We may even come to regard these economic sanctions as beneficial to Iran's technology and industry since it forces our army and our industrialists to think hard, to act and to manufacture new parts, which will be accompanied by scientific and technical advances for our nation. At present some aircraft and helicopter parts are taken from other, grounded helicopters, and we fit parts from one helicopter to another to enable it to be flown and be operational.

It is true that in time there will be increased pressure arising from the shortage of spare parts. However, there has been some progress in obtaining supplies of parts by manufacturing them ourselves or purchasing them. Thus we feel that America's economic sanctions will never bring us to our knees: Rather, we shall be able to obtain our requirements through the initiative and devotion of army personnel and Iranian industrialists, at whatever pains.

As regards food, I must say that when people are psychologically under stress, they give up their lordly, bourgeois and wasteful ways, and this is the finest practical and mental training for our revolutionary peoples.

However, the third course, which is more dangerous than the other threats and worries us more than anything else, is the instigation of internal strife, bringing about conflict, friction, dissatisfaction and differences between religious leaders, politicians and leading personalities together with various other actions, which you can see every day throughout the country: the plots which took place in Kordestan and which we have seen in Khuzestan, the present and past troubles in Tabriz, the clashes and conspiracies in Baluchestan--these are examples of what foreign imperialism has created and directed, and this is how they seek to overthrow our revolution. In my view, this is the greatest threat to our revolution, and the fight against the differences, clashes and dissatisfactions which exist in our nation today calls for the development, awareness, faith and devotion of our people.

Successive Helicopter Crashes

We asked the defense minister: For some time now, every week, or every so often, we hear of aircraft and helicopters crashing. It is rumored that this is due to terrorism; has this been investigated?

Chamran said: These fears or suspicions have occurred to us, but we have no satisfactory evidence, particularly in view of the fact that these helicopters have been dissappearing in severe storms, in snow, rain, turbulence, mountains and high mountainous areas, there is satisfactory evidence that prevailing weather conditions are responsible for these losses rather than terrorism or any other likely cause.

We asked: What relationship exists between yourself as defense minister and the Revolution Council and Ayatollah Khamne'i?

He replied: Our relationship with the Revolution Council is a very close and brotherly one. Each week we hold three joint sessions with the Revolution Council where all our problems and difficulties are aired. I must say that we are now able to solve our difficulties and problems much more easily than before.

Now as for relations between myself and His Excellency Mr Khamne'i, they are very sincere and brotherly, and we share the same ideological foundations, aims and approach in carrying out programs there are no differences between us.

Coup d'Etat in the Army

A rumor has been circulating for some time that there is a group in the army which has made an attempt to stage a coup d'etat. We raised this matter with Dr Chamran.

We asked: Is it true or not that a specific, published statement signed by the air force warrant officers cites the names of a number of individuals as being the perpetrators of a coup d'etat, and also contains a request that they should be publicly tried? (A facsimile of the statement which had reached KEYHAN was shown to Dr Chamran).

After reading the text of the statement and acquainting himself with its contents the defense minister said:

As regards these officers intending to stage a coup--this is wrong. I even read in one of the guerrilla newspapers that Major General Shaker was included in this gang and that this was the reason for his resignation, which is not true, since he resigned because of fatigue.

Moreover, the carrying out of purges or the expulsions cannot be considered a reason for a coup d'etat. Now as regards the officers and warrant officers mentioned in the statement, various circumstances exist. There are a number of warrant officers connected with certain parties and organizations who are deviant and destructive elements bent on weakening the army, but the majority are believers and Muslims who go along with the revolution, and expect their aims to be fulfilled by a revolutionary government. Unfortunately, because of inertia the expectations of this large class of warrant officers have not been fulfilled. They do have grievances and they do complain, but protesting destructive groups derive unfair advantage from the dissatisfaction of the masses of deprived warrant officers and create trouble. In my view, the actual facts should be recognized as they exist and each group should be given an answer in a consistent, precise and clear manner; they should not all be tarred with the same brush.

Unfortunately, some of our leaders are unaware of this fact and they do tar all with the same brush which is likely to benefit the extremist, deviant groups.

What Is the Solution?

We asked Dr Chamran: In order to resolve the Kordestan issue, what do you think should be done? What specific proposal do you have?

He replied: At present we believe in negotiations. As the revolution council and also the imam have said, as long as peaceful negotiations produce results, we shall continue to hold them. But should the time come when we feel that negotiations are useless, and that one inch of the country's territory is in danger of being lost, the army will of course enter the affray, and we shall fight to the last drop of blood for this revolution and for the independence of this land.

Visit to Barzani?

We said to the defense minister: In the latest edition of a certain publication there is a casual reference to the previous week's edition, which stated that you had met with Idris Barzani, son of Molla Mostafa Barzani.

Dr Chamran said: It is total lie. I neither went to Karaj nor met with Idris Barzani. I have never been to Barzani's area of operations.

In conclusion we come to the role of the army and mutual relations between the president and the minister of defense. We asked Dr Chamran: What sort of relationship exists between the president and the army and the minister of defense and the army.

He said: In accordance with existing laws, the defense minister is not endowed with any responsibilities as regards the army. The defense minister's work is of a legal and administrative nature, involving military industries and logistics. Other army affairs come under the Joint Army Staff. According to the laws of the advanced countries of the world, the army is answerable to parliament the elected representatives of the nation, through the minister, while [in Iran] at present the army staff is responsible to no one but the leader. For this reason, neither the Revolution Council, nor the government, nor the Majles have any right to voice their opinions or to study army matters.

In conclusion, in reply to our question, Dr Chamran said that he will not be taking part in the elections to the Majles, and that he has no particular views on the subject.

AL-MUSTAQBAL INTERVIEWS REVOLUTION GUARDS COMMANDER

JN141301 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 9 Feb 80 pp 36, 37 JN

[Text] "Abu Sharif" has been head of military operations for the Revolution Guards in Iran since their establishment following the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Those who meet him may see in him something of "Castro," the leader of the Cuban revolution--similar uniforms, similar beards and a common revolutionary simplicity.

"'Abbas Zamani" or "Abu Sharif" began his struggle against the shah's regime in 1965, after his graduation from the university with a B.A. in Arabic literature. Only a few months had passed from the time of his involvement in political action when he was arrested and tortured. The effects of that torture are still seen on his body today. In 1972 he joined the Palestinian resistance and brought with him most of the cadres of his party, "God's Party" (Hizb Allah?)

During his stay with the Palestinian resistance, he was trained in fighting and use of arms. After a few months, he decided to return to Iran and was arrested near the Turkish--Iranian border, before entering the country. Thus, he was tortured once again, but did not confess. After his 5-month arrest he escaped from jail through the Pakistani borders on foot. Days before the collapse of Bakhtiar, he returned from Nouvelle le Chateau in France to join Imam Khomeyni in Iran and to establish the Revolution Guards, upon instructions from Khomeyni.

During the first months, the Revolution Guards were military groups linked to leadership personalities. On 3 April 1979, after a large purging operation inside the Revolution Guards, they were transformed from various military groups into one group adhering to one political line and one leadership.

We conducted the following interview with "Abu Sharif":

[Question] A whole year has passed since the establishment of the Revolution Guards in Iran. How do you evaluate the activity of the guards? Do you believe that they carried out their tasks in accordance with the desire of the leadership?

[Answer] From the 1st day of the victory of the revolution, the Revolution Guards have been arresting the remaining SAVAK groups, the supporters of the shah and all those who plotted against the revolution. They repulsed the armed attacks and conspiracies against the Islamic Revolution. After the fall of the army, gendarmerie and police, the guards devoted their efforts to bringing about security in the country. They were active in preventing chaos and in fighting the smuggling of arms and money. They were also active in training the revolutionaries and reforming them through the establishment of the new army, known as the Revolution Guards.

Despite these activities and the determination of the Revolution Guards to go ahead with their struggle, we expected our achievements to be greater and larger. But because of certain problems facing us, we could not achieve all of our aspirations.

[Question] What are these problems?

[Answer] The problems came about as a result of the lack of coordination between the provisional government under Bazargan and the Revolution Guards. The government did not support the guards and provide them with money and arms, in an attempt to cut them down to size, so that they would not be effective enough to constitute a future threat.

[Question] You said it is the provisional government that created these problems. Who, among the members of the government, took part in this?

[Answer] At the beginning Ebrahim Yazdi tried to control the guards and interfere in the revolution's affairs, as he was a deputy prime minister. But we refused to come under the supervision of the provisional government, headed by Bazargan and his deputy, Yazdi. Yazdi was neither revolutionary nor qualified for this leadership. He was not one of the revolutionaries who struggled throughout the past 20 years. The provisional government, through Yazdi and others, tried to place the guards under its supervision, although the guards were guards of the revolution and not of the government. The collision with the government came when the government tried to use the guards to implement its nonrevolutionary objectives, such as the involvement of the guards in conflict with the laborers who were on strike.

[Question] How were the Revolution Guards organized? Were they established in the form of a pyramid, like modern armies--generals, colonels, down to lieutenant and then soldiers--or were they structured like the revolutionary organizations that struggle against occupation?

[Answer] There are no military ranks as there are in modern armies. In other words, we do not have colonels, lieutenant colonels, etc. But the structure of the guards resembles all other military structures: they have a leader, deputy leader, higher military council and general military council.

It also has cadres and officers, like group commander, platoon commander and division commander. The leaders have no priviledges over the guards. Salaries are not set in accordance with rank. The salary of the guard might be higher than that of the platoon commander. The salary is in accordance with need. After fending off the provisional government's attempt to control them, the guards came under the supervision of the Revolution Council. We take orders from the leadership's council.

[Question] The old army is still in Iran and is trying to resume its activities. Also present are the Revolution Guards and the people's army, which Imam Khomeyni recruited through his call for the training of 20 million Iranians in the use of arms. Is there no danger of conflict among the tasks and authorities of these three forces?

[Answer] The army has certain tasks specified in the constitution and the guards have certain tasks, also specified in the constitution of the guards. There is coordination between the army and the guards in times of crisis. There is also a joint leadership for the army and the guards in times of crisis. The following example illustrates this: when the clashes occurred in Kordestan, particularly in Paveh, a joint leadership was formed.

[Question] Who heads this leadership?

[Answer] In the case of guerrilla warfare, the guards head the joint leadership. When large clashes occur and they need tanks and heavy weapons, then the leadership of the army takes command. The army will be enlarged in accord with political circumstances. As for the people's guard, its task will be to defend the revolution and Iran in case an external danger develops, or even in case of a large-scale internal danger against the revolution. In all cases, the weapons of the people's army will be placed in special centers, to be used only when there is need.

[Question] The Revolution Guards are accused of committing violations, in addition to the fact that they played a political role in the Kordestan incidents. What is your reply?

[Answer] This is untrue. If we go back to the outset of the clashes, we find that it is the Kurds who began the fighting in Marivan. They exploded bombs after placing them in the mouths of 25 Revolution Guard hostages. When the negotiations began in Marivan and before a solution was reached, they ignited the situation in the city of Bara. They occupied the hospital and persecuted a large number of the wounded revolution guards. The imam became angry over this inhuman treatment and ordered that they be fought. The guards entered the battle to guarantee the freedom of the Kurdish Muslims.

[Question] It is said that you have sometimes violated orders. What do you think of this charge?

[Answer] There is no truth to the charge of violation of orders. Everything we did was in implementation of the Revolution Council's orders. All those whom we arrested were accused of various charges, like torturing the struggling revolutionaries or treating them in an inhuman way, following their capture after the victory of the revolution.

[Question] How do you view a solution to the problem of minorities in Iran?

[Answer] In my opinion there is no minority problem in Iran. Islam officially recognized the rights of every individual, including the Jews and even the nonbelievers, so what would the case be where believers are concerned?

Thus, we consider these crises that are currently taking place in the country to be U.S. plots, concocted in order to turn the Islamic Revolution in Iran from its aims and true course, which was adopted against U.S. imperialism and world Zionism and in order to save the world's oppressed peoples.

Concerning the Islamic Revolution and the ethnic minorities, the revolution has approved these minorities' rights in such a way that their rights and Iran's unity are maintained. We have lived together for 13 centuries and there is no way to change the situation now. As for saying that the Kurds or others should be given the right to live independently in their regions and in accordance with their own laws, this is impossible. Kordestan cannot exist without the Kurds. In the same way, the Province of Kordestan in Iran cannot exist without the Arabs, Farsis and others. As for the Arabs, Farsis or Turkomans leaving Kordestan, this is unacceptable from all viewpoints, particularly from that of Islam, just as it is unacceptable for the Kurds to leave Khuzestan.

Furthermore, Iran cannot exist as Switzerland or Belgium do. The situation in Switzerland, where every canton has its own revenues, is impossible to attain here, for what would be the meaning of Khuzestan oil being good for the Kurd while the Arab or Farsi is not good enough to participate in the administration of Kordestan?

However, this does not prevent us from saying that whoever wishes to or is asked to work in Kordestan is expected to know Kurdish, since this is essential. This is how we view the situation in the area of minorities. Each minority can speak its language or study it. But as for this minority attaining its independence, we say no.

[Question] What do you think of political organizations? Do you agree to giving them freedom of work and organization?

[Answer] Every political organization that does not take arms against the revolution and adopts the principle of mutual respect with other organizations can perform its political activities, be it communist, Marxist or Maoist.

[Question] What about "Forqan" and the assassinations committed by its members?

[Answer] In the first place these assassinations are not committed by Forqan members; and secondly, we have arrested some elements. But since we are acting according to Islamic law, we cannot torture an accused person. We do not have a mon-Islamic method. (The Forqan leader was arrested 2 days after the interview. The Revolution Guards followed a military method in arresting the leader and 40 Forqan members) [parentheses as published].

[Question] It is known that you used to lead "God's Party." Do you still lead it?

[Answer] I, personally, after the establishment of the Islamic Republican Party and the Revolution Guards, joined the guards. The organization has dissolved itself, joining the Revolution Guards, and has now been absorbed in them. Politically, we do not undertake any activities outside the Revolution Guards framework.

[Question] What is your stand on combating imperialism outside Iran?

[Answer] Stemming from Islamic logic, imperialism must be attacked all over the world. The Revolution Guards' constitution provides for supporting liberation movements of the world.

[Question] What is the Revolution Guards' stand on the presidential elections?

[Answer] The Revolution Guards, as an organization, will not take a stand; but it will permit all its members to vote as they wish.

[Question] Do you believe in the possibility of a successful military coup?

[Answer] I do not think so. It is impossible.

GUIDELINES FOR 1980 BUDGET ANNOUNCED

LD140630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The plan and budget organization has announced allocations and new projects in the budget for 1980 to all executive organs of the country. In this circular, while enumerating the economic and social difficulties of the country such as the slowdown in various activities, unemployment, the low level of domestic production, inflation and high prices, the unreasonable increase in the current budget compared to the development budget, the discontinuation of some development projects, the shutdown of activities during the revolution, shortage of trained manpower and other problems. It is stated that there is no doubt that all these difficulties cannot be solved at once. However, through the government's fiscal and budgeting policy some of these difficulties can be solved and should be attended to.

The budget for the year 1980 can precisely play such a role. The attempt of the government in drawing up next year's budget is directed towards the following points:

1. The current budget of various departments, organizations and ministries should be studied and analyzed on the basis of their real operation, and proposals and inclusion of any unnecessary, luxurious, superfluous and inflationary expenses should be seriously avoided.

2. State companies will also follow the same rules.

3. In the case of the development budget, it is necessary to study and analyze the actual use of the budget of 1979 and the situation of development projects as well as studying the shortcomings and reasons for the slowness or stoppage in activities. Each development project should be carefully evaluated both from this point of view as well as from the viewpoint of its dependence on materials from abroad, especially America, Western Europe and Japan. In the 1980 development budget, for the sake of making up for projects which may probably come to a halt due to the economic embargo, and also in order to continue the economic development of the country especially in 1981 and subsequent years, it is necessary that from right now new projects whose studies have been completed should be considered and suggested.

4. In the budget of the provinces the utmost attempt should be made so that a balance is created between various regions and between the urban and rural sectors of each province in the benefits of the government's public services. In the same field, the implementation of small and labor-intensive projects in various parts of the country should receive full attention.

In general, in drawing up the budget for 1980 full attention should be paid so that the operations and allocations of the current or 1979 development budgets will not necessarily and without sufficient fiscal and economic justification be made the basis for action and repetition. All programs should be reviewed and proposals should be made on the basis of new requirements, policies set out in this circular, and by making use of the experiences and the utilization of the budget for the current year.

In this circular reference has been made to the new proposals and programs as important steps in the budget for 1980. It is stated that these points should be taken into consideration in preparing next year's budgets:

A. Short-term productive projects which can speedily increase the supply of various commodities in the market.

B. Projects which can bring the condition of various income groups closer to each other in society.

C. Crash projects which can increase productivity and improve the social life of villages, backward areas and low income groups and which can increase the level of real employment.

D. Infrastructure and social projects such as electricity, roads--especially rural and regional roads--education, health and training the labor force.

E. Productive projects which can link the present industrial links together so that the importation of the intermediary items or foreign manufactured parts can be avoided.

F. Expensive and vast projects which require advanced technology should be considered only so far as they may support the level of essential domestic production, can assist exports and can create new sources of income for the country's budget.

ARMY, AIR FORCE OFFICIALS EXPLAIN TASKS, GOALS

LD141914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY report a press conference was held at noon today at which the responsible officials from the political and ideological department of the Combined General Staff of the Air Force and the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran described the tasks and aims of their department which war formed following the victory of the revolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholam Reza Safa'i, head of the political and ideological department of the Combined General Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking at the conference, said: As approved by the Revolution Council, the heads and supervisors of this department and the three armed forces are to be selected by the office of the ruling jurisconsult [Ayatollah Khomeyni] and the current responsible officials have also been put forward by the office of the imam. The department's task is to inform the personnel of the three armed forces, to disseminate the Islamic ideology so that the members of the army, being fully informed, might be able to pass judgment on other schools [of thought and religion] and to inform them about counterrevolutionary provocations.

He said: One of the tasks of the political and ideological department of the army is to place the army's capabilities at the disposal of government organizations and the nation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Safa'i added: In the course of such natural disasters as earthquakes and the recent floods, this department has been remarkably active in the matter of the construction crusade and last summer a great many school textbooks were printed by the army printing house.

During the press conference, attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rohani and Seyyed Reza Akrami, two of the supervisors of the political and ideological department of the army and the air force, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rohani said the following about the arrest of an air force NCO: This issue will be decided by a court attended by a religious judge, and should certain individuals have any protests pertaining to the accusations leveled against any one under arrest they should refer the matter to that court or, bearing in mind the chain of command, to convey their applications to the highest authority in the army, or the commander-in-chief of the forces, the Imam Khomeyni. However, people should not now strike and stage sit-ins while the Imam Khomeyni is in hospital and has banned all demonstrations and sit-ins; while the floods in the southern parts of the country have brought bereavement to our people; or while the foreign guests are currently in Tehran. Instead, people should devote their time to the service of the nation and the realm, and should not waste that time in vain. Of course, this group of people have certain demands which, in my opinion, might well be up to 80 percent lawful and religiously correct. But one should take care that at present there are a great many groups among the people of our country whose rights have been lost, and to remedy that, time is needed. Therefore it is illogical to resort to strikes and sit-ins, in the present circumstances, in order to obtain justice.

BANI-SADR TO OPEN REVOLUTIONARY CONGRESS 15 FEB

LD142036 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that the Islamic Revolutionary Congress will convene as of tomorrow with a speech of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in Tehran. Over 5,000 people representing the different sects of the nation, clergy, political groups, Islamic societies, workers associations, will participate in this congress. The congress will last for 3 days.

NEW DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

LD142244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] According to a central news bureau report a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced the following: In order to carry out fundamental changes in the diplomatic missions of the Islamic Republic abroad and in order to coordinate the activities of these missions with the aims of the Islamic Revolution of Iran the following individuals have recently been appointed as the new heads responsible for the Iranian missions and have been dispatched to the venue of their mission:

Sa'id Zibakalam, ad interim charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Manila, the Philippines;

Eskandar Rastgar, ad interim charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Rome, Italy;

Shapur Mohazzab, ad interim charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Brussels, Belgium;

'Ali Asghar Tehranchi, ad interim charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in The Hague, Netherlands;

Javad Yarjani, ad interim charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, Lebanon;

Mahmud Sadat Madarshahi, ad interim charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates;

'Abd al-'Aziz Shafi'i, ad interim charge d'affairs of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Warsaw, Poland;

Ahmad Moshavveqzadeh, ad interm charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ankara, Turkey;

Mehdi Sazgara, ad interim charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Stockholm, Sweden;

Ansur Vafa'i, ad interim charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Buenos Aires, Argentina;

Mostafa Dabiri, ad interim charge d'affaires at the permanent mission of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland;

Gholam 'Ali Chamanzar, ad interim supervisor of the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva, Switzerland;

Mohammad Taheri, ad interim supervisor of the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Erzurum, Turkey;

Hosen Shirazian, ad interim supervisor of the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Peshawar, Pakistan;

'Azizollah Zand, ad interim supervisor of the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Hyderabad, India;

Ahmad Ardekanian, ad interim supervisor of the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Lahore, Pakistan;

'Abbas A'rabi-Hashemi, ad interim supervisor of the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karachi, Pakistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the hope that these individuals, with the cooperation of the Muslim brethren residing in the places of their missions, will be able to reflect the real face of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in the diplomatic missions and to take steps toward the realization of the Islamic goals of the heroic Iranian nation.

EXPORT OF GAS TO SOVIET UNION DECREASED

LD132137 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that the oil minister, 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar has said: The ratio of gas export to the Soviet Union, which amounted to 27.4 million cubic meters in the past, has been decreased due to domestic need--raising of consumption inside the country.

Mo'infar said: The Soviet Union has expressed willingness that Iran continues to export between 25 to 30 percent of the former amount of gas to that country.

Mo'infar said: Presently Iran is charging $3.80 for each 1,000 cubic feet of gas, whereas formerly that figure was 76 cents.

Recently an Iranian delegation of the Oil Ministry departed for Moscow to hold talks on the price and (?export) of gas to that country.

PAPER DENOUNCES SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN

LD150350 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0145 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI today carries an article under the heading "The Soviet Union is Repeating America's Mistake in Vietnam." I'll read you some parts of this article:

What happened and is happening in Afghanistan was not a revolt, and the issue is not merely Soviet interference in that country. What has happened is more dangerous than is imagined. All signs indicate and confirm that the Soviet forces which have invaded Afghanistan have prepared themsleves to stay there and not to withdraw. The issue cannot be considered merely in relation to Afghanistan. Rather, for the first time, the Soviet Union is distrupting the international balance and is removing the obstacle which she had on her path for access to the Indian Ocean and is endangering the balance of power in the region.

What will be the consequences of this Soviet action? There will be many consequences from this action, but it seems that the Soviet Government is not paying any attention to these consequences. This time the Soviet Union does not wish to be far from Muslim Asia, especially after the spreading wave of Islam as the result of Imam Khomeyni's revolution in Iran. Finally, the Soviet Union must get close to oil sources. The Soviet Union regards Afghanistan as her best base. The Soviet Union showed no hesitation in making use of her base. On the contrary, she made use of other people's hesitation and vacillation and tried to portray her invasion of Afghanistan as military assistance.

In order to mislead others, the Soviet Union said that she will not keep her forces in Afghanistan for more than a few months. However, what is certain is that if these forces were to spend only a few months in Afghanistan, there would be no need for six military bases, five airports, several communication centers and cover by heavy weapons such as tanks and guns and the installation of radar and telecommunication equipment in mountainous areas in order to watch over the caravans and the revolutionary Afghans. With such actions, it is clear that the Russians have no intention of leaving. These actions are signs that the Rusians intend to stay in Afghanistan.

The world regards the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as a very dangerous action which could lead to a catastrophe. The Soviet Union has repeated the same mistake which America made in Vietnam. In her intervention in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union resorted to terror, intimidation and bloody purges, in the same way that Holaku and Ghengis Khan made use of the same tactics in their attacks. The Soviet actions have created terror throughout the whole region, so much so that everybody is saying "the Tartars are on their way."

The claim by the Soviet Union that she has interfered in Afghanistan in order to save it will not deceive anyone, and such a claim will not minimize the effects of this intervention. The actions of the Soviet Union shows that this country is far more avaracious than people imagine.

Reported Soviet Troop Movements

LD132210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2111 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement today following the publication of an AFP report quoting the U.S. Defense Department concerning unusual Soviet military deployments on the Soviet-Iranian border. The statement says: As announced in a previous statement on the same subject, the Soviet ambassador to Tehran had earlier promised the minister of foreign affairs of Iran that such reports are totally baseless and that the Soviet Union has no intention of military interference in Iran.

Meanwhile, TASS news agency, publishing a report from Washington, termed the remarks of the U.S. Defense Department as baseless.

NVOI DISCUSSES ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION

TA120805 [Editorial Report TA] (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 11 February carried two commentaries, the first untitled:

The glorious anniversary of our nation's admirable revolution was celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout the entire country. Millions of people took part in marches and rallies. The anniversary of the victory of the Iranian nation's glorious revolution is in fact a victory of justice over injustice, of freedom over slavery and of fairness over oppression. Following years and months of bloody struggle, the Iranian nation finally succeeded in overthrowing one of the greatest criminals and dictators who possessed a powerful army and enjoyed the support of U.S. imperialism. This achievement was a result of the will of the masses and their unity and alliance. Our nation's admirable revolution was in fact the compliment of the unfinished constitutional revolution of many years ago. Since the constitutional revolution, our nation has devoted special attention to two main issues--independence and democracy. The Iranian nation and our country's revolutionary leaders have rightly recognized that, unless Iran enjoys independence and democracy, the resolution of any of our country's political, economic and social problems is not possible. With the aid and support of U.S. imperialism, the corrupt Pahlavi dynasty looted and plundered our country for more than a half century, especially during the last three generations when it resorted to torture and terror. In such circumstances the Iranian nation's demonstrations and protests, under the leadership of the great Khomeyni, swept the corrupt and criminal Pahlavi dynasty into the dustbin of history. At the same time, the Iranian nation continued the struggle against world-devouring U.S. imperialism under the imam's decisive leadership, and even today in his message to the nation he stressed the importance of cutting all kinds of political, military, economic and cultural dependence with the United States. We are confident that the heroic Iranian nation will triumph in this struggle.

The second, entitled: "Following the Imam's Path Is Our Current Slogan" follows:

One year has passed since the victory of our nation's admirable revolution. If during this period the imam's path had truly been followed and his recommendations carried out, without doubt there would have been numerous achievements in securing the aims of the revolution. Unfortunately, the provisional government of Mr Bazargan, by implementing its step by step policy and through its conciliatory path, caused great damage to the Iranian Revolution. The provisional government not only refused to wage a decisive and revolutionary struggle against U.S. imperialism, but followed a path of closeness and renewal of relations with U.S. imperialism, and, despite the demand and recommendations of the leader of the revolution, it secretly concluded several agreements with U.S. imperialism.

The provisional government not only did not embark on a decisive and revolutionary struggle against the counterrevolution, the SAVAKists and remnants of the former regime, but it opposed the correct and decisive measures of the revolution's foundations, especially the Islamic Revolution courts. Despite the demand of the leader of the revolution in saving millions of deprived and toiling Iranians from their grim living conditions, the provisional government did not take any step in this direction. The provisional government did not act as the leader of the revolution as our country's people desired and expected, and its indecisive and unrevolutionary policy resulted in our revolution paying a heavy price. Fortunately, the Revolution Council as a whole is following the imam's path and all its measures are directed toward implementing the recommendations of the revolution's leader. Following the dismissal of the provisional government, the anti-American and anti-imperialist struggles of our people, under Imam Khomeyni's leadership, are continuing with great intensity. "The demand made by the true revolution forces and genuine revolutionary parties and organizations on our homeland's first president is strict pursuance of the imam's path. It is only through pursuance of this path that our homeland's first president will enjoy the all-round support of our homeland's people. Today, the criterion of the correctness or incorrectness of any policy and measure by responsible officials is conformity with the imam's path."

NVOI COMMENTS ON 'JUST DEMANDS OF WORKERS'

TA131720 [Editorial Report TA] (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 12 February carried a commentary entitled "Let Us Pay Attention to the Just Demands of the Workers." It says:

In the struggle for the liquidation of the economic, political and cultural influence of imperialism, and foremost of all U.S. imperialism, our country's toilers and workers have a greater role than others, and occupy the first ranks of this holy struggle. The pressure of US imperialism most of all was on the shoulders of the workers and toilers. Despite many difficulties, our workers are exerting all their efforts to revive the economy and to increase production in the country. Counterrevolutionary elements are engaged in intrigues and provocations among factory workers and some of the factory managers purposely create a shortage of raw materials. These elements are SAVAKists and remnants of the former regime who must be purged, and every kind of sssistance should be rendered to the workers in order to solve their problems.

NVOI DISCUSSES IMPORT OF 'UNITY OF EXPRESSION'

TA131851 [Editorial Report TA] (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 13 February carried a commentary entitled: "Unity of Expression Is the Guarantor of Victory." It says:

In a message to the Iranian nation on the eve of the Majles elections Imam Khomeyni has called on the people to preserve their unity and not sacrifice national interests for self-interests. There is no doubt that the Iranian nation will this time also heed the imam and will reply in the affirmative to its leader's call. The enemies of the revolution and elements of US imperialism have striven to create discord and chaos in different parts of the country such as in Kordestan and Gonbad-e Kavus recently, but due to the vigilance of the Iranian nation all their plans and conspiracies have been foiled. The Iranian nation will preserve unity of word and action during the Majles elections and will heed the imam's call. At the same time it is the duty of the Revolution Council to see that these elections are held in a free atmosphere.

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